

leaders to effectively communicate the national mission value of our bases and defend them in the face of downsizing and cuts.

In my office, Mike provided calm and reasoned counsel and was a trusted advisor and effective implementer of my legislative agenda and appropriation priorities. He successfully worked with economic development interests to bring new and better jobs to Mississippi and implement strategic community development plans at our universities and industrial clusters. He has a strong vision for our State and creative ideas to reach those goals.

Hurricane Katrina presented unique challenges to all levels of leadership in Mississippi, from alderman to Congressman; from mayor to Governor. As we coordinated emergency response efforts on all levels of government, Mike Lipski served as my liaison to MEMA, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, and slept on a cot at their headquarters for several days, when he wasn't on the coast with a satellite phone making immediate needs assessments and providing logistical coordination and advice. Mike traded his cot and sat-phone for a tie and clipboard and returned to Washington where he worked closely with me in developing and implementing Katrina reform measures: Federal contracting reform, housing and infrastructure policy, Federal relief and emergency recovery funding. His knowledge and experience with the Corps of Engineers provided a unique resource both during reform and in oversight as committees investigated the Government response to Hurricane Katrina.

Mike's wife, the former Jill Daria Wiltzius, has stood by him throughout his military career and his public service in my office. His transfers around the world have provided them both amazing international experiences but now Mike has convinced his Wisconsin girl to settle in Mississippi. Our State is a better place with the two of them as strong and honorable citizens. Jill is an outstanding educator and hopes to pursue her Ph.D. now that they are settled in Mississippi. I know Mike's family in Long Beach is very proud of him and his successful career is a tribute to his parents: John and Eleanor.

Now Mike will have time to sail, canoe, fly fish, and indulge his outdoor passions, but I have no doubt he will be integral in rebuilding and leading the coast to a full recovery.

Mike Lipski left a formative mark on the shape and operation of my office. We will miss his good nature, warm friendship, determined work ethic, and dry humor. I am proud of his service and the positive difference he has made for our State and the country. I am grateful to call him my friend. I thank him for his service to this office and to Mississippi and wish him the best of fortune in his new endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING DEE CORK AND THE DENTON COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Dee Cork for his years of service in the United States Armed Forces,

and for his continued service to our country by building a memorial to veterans from Denton County, Texas.

Working along with Mr. Monty Slough, Mr. Cork identified the names of nine fallen service members and created a personal way to memorialize their service. Without prompting or financial support, Mr. Cork began building a granite tiled memorial to Denton County soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who died in service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Mr. Cork has taken up the honorable but unfortunate task of paying respect to fellow veterans who pay the ultimate price while serving our country. In his own eloquent words Dee said, "It would be nice to see no one else on it, one is too many."

The mobile memorial built by veterans Monty Slough and Dee Cork is an example of why we hold our nation's veterans in such high esteem. I believe the character displayed by Mr. Slough and Mr. Cork should be highlighted as an example of American civic duty and community support; I rise here today to show them that courtesy.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Dee Cork for his dedication to veterans and their families. I thank him for his work, I support his mission, and I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize him today.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE BY HOUSE WITH AMENDMENT IN SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 3997, HEROES EARNINGS ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF TAX ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the Heroes Earnings and Assistance and Relief Tax (HEART) Act of 2007 is an important piece of legislation that goes a long way toward helping the financial difficulties faced by American soldiers. This bill helps honor those who are serving so bravely during this time of war.

The HEART Act would make permanent the inclusion of combat pay as earned income, ensuring that soldiers' families receive much needed tax relief. It also would help thousands of veterans and their families to become homeowners through low-interest home loans, would support those small business employers who continue to pay National Guardsmen and Reservists when they are called to serve, and expands other tax credit and tax relief provisions to help ease any financial difficulties faced by these soldiers.

Those who answer the call of duty should be rewarded for their actions by being assured they will not be unduly and negatively affected due to their patriotism. I support this legislation and join the many veterans' organizations in encouraging its passage into law.

#### CONGRATULATING THE CHAZY EAGLES UPON WINNING THE 2007 NEW YORK STATE BOYS SOCCER CLASS D CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. JOHN M. McHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chazy Central Rural School District Eagles upon winning the 2007 New York State Boys Soccer Class D Championship. Of note, this was the third state boys soccer championship in the last four years for Chazy, which is located in my upstate New York congressional district.

On November 18, 2007, the Eagles won the New York State Class D Championship when they defeated the Poland Tornadoes by a score of 1-0. In that game, Stetson Fields scored late in the second half after taking a pass from Co-Captain Jason Baker. Chazy, with a 14-2 shot advantage that pressured the Tornadoes' defense all game long, was then able to preserve their lead, with goalkeeper Jacob Beeman recording the shutout.

The Eagles completed the 2007 season with a record of 24-1-0 and with team Co-Captain Nolan Ryan as the holder of the state record for career goals; in his career, Ryan scored 173 goals, 59 assists, and 405 points. The Chazy Eagles were coached by Rob McAuliffe and assistant coaches Ian Brassard and Matt Devins; Brian Norcross is the Athletic Director. Other team members were scorekeeper Lindsey Seymour and players, Ben Baker, Jordan Barriere, Kenny Bulriss, Tyler Bulriss, Jonah Curtin, Tyson Duprey, Brad Hansen, Shea Howley, Steven LaBombard, Co-Captain Kyle LaFountain, Andrew LaPierre, Perry Latremore, Eric Martin, Nathan Racine, Kyle Reynolds, Kaleb Snide, Gaelan Trombley, and Chris Vliege. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to have the opportunity to recognize them for their significant accomplishment.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DAN CICORA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dan Cicora, and to celebrate his service to the veterans of Cuyahoga County.

Dan began his service to our country in 1969. As a soldier in the United States Army, Dan served in Vietnam with the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Artillery. Dan graduated cum laude from Ohio University in 1975, and in 1979 began his work with the Veterans Administration as a benefits counselor. Dan's extraordinary dedication to veterans and his sincere desire to serve our community has marked every position he has held with the VA, and he has won numerous accolades for his efforts. In May 1983 Dan received the VA Central Office Public Service Award, he has received five suggestion awards, and twenty-three awards for performance, quality and contribution.

Since 2003 Dan has served as the Congressional Liaison for the VA Cleveland office. In this capacity Dan has helped my office